

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 EUR-08 INR-05 NSC-05

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3229

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 1172

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, ECOSOC, EGEN, UNICEF

SUBJECT: UNICER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORSHIP

REF: USUN 1130

1. DURING APRIL 19 MEETING BETWEEN SYG WALDHEIM AND AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND WELLS, THE SUBJECT OF UNICEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LABOUISSSE'S REPLACEMENT WAS BRIEFLY RAISED. WALDHEIM INDICATED HE WAS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE SWEDES TO APPOINT MICHANEK, AND THEY HAD SPOKEN TO HIM EXTENSIVELY ON THE SUBJECT. HE REFERENCED A LETTER FROM THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WHICH CITED GENERAL CONTRIBUTION FIGURES AND PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION IN ORDER TO DRIVE HOME THE FACT THAT THE NORDICES HAD MADE DISPROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNICEF AND THEREFORE DESERVED THE POST. (THEY IDENTIFIED MICHANEK AS THE NORDIC CANDIDATE.) FURTHER, THE SWEDES HAD PRESSED HIM ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS POST SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AN AMERICAN POST IN PERPETUITY. (SEE REFTEL)

2. DURING THE MEETING WALDHEIM LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO THE US POSITION, AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANCE OF THIS POST TO THE US, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE FACT THAT THE US PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS HAD ALWAYS BEEN SIZABLE, OUTSTRIPPING ALL OTHER SINGLE DONORS; (I.E., A COMPOSITE OF USG GENERAL RESOURCES, PL-480 CONTRIBUTIONS AND THAT OF THE US PRIVATE SECTOR).

3. WALDHEIM'S SOLUTION TO THE DILEMMA: THE US FIND SOME WAY TO PERSUADE SWEDEN TO WITHDRAW ITS CANDIDACY, AND IN RETURN WALDHEIM WOULD FIND A COMPARABLE POST FOR THEM. (FYI: WHETNER THIS MEANT FILLING SOME USYG POST ENCUMBERED BY AN AMERICAN WITH A SWEDE, FINDING A PRESTIGIOUS, DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ASGY POST AS AN ALTERNATIVE, WAS NOT CLEAR. ENS FYI.)

4. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR THUNBORG HAS REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG, NOW SCHEDULED FOR PM APRIL 21. THE SWEDES WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE EASY TO PERSUADE TO WITHDRAW, IF IN FACT WE WERE CONVINCED PULLING WALDHEIM'S CHESTNUTS OUT OF THE FIRE WAS AN APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE US. POSSIBLY WE (OR WALDHEIM) WERE TO IDENTIFY SOME OTHER POST WHICH THEY FOUND ATTRACTIVE (AND WALDHEIM HAS CONTROL OVER THE APPOINTMENT), THERE MIGHT BE SOME POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A MUTUAL AGREEMENT. THEREFORE WITHOUT PREJUDICING HOW WE WILL DEAL WITH THE MATTER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS POST VIS-A-VIS OTHERS WHICH CONCEIVABLY MIGHT BE VACATED IN THE NEAR OR MEDIUM TERM IN ORDER TO HAVE A BETTER PICTURE OF THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH INFO BY AM APRIL 21.
YOUNG

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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